

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on February 1, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Pat Christian, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 48, 1/27/2017; HB 49, 1/27/2017

Executive Action: SB 42: Do Pass as Amended

HEARING ON HB 48

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:18 Rep. Bob Brown (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 48, Clarify definition of water right change.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:08 Mark Simonich, Montana Association of Realtors

00:03:58 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Senior Water Rights Coalition and the Montana Farmer's Union

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:04:46 Millie Hefner, Water Rights bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:05:06 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:05:25 Ms. Hefner, DNRC

00:05:45 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:06:18 Ms. Hefner

00:06:45 Sen. Welborn

00:07:58 Ms. Hefner

00:08:35 Sen. Barrett

00:09:03 Ms. Hefner

00:09:33 Sen. Barrett

00:09:44 Ms. Hefner

Closing by Sponsor:

00:10:24 Rep. Brown

HEARING ON HB 49

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:11:52 Rep. Bob Brown (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 49, Clarify process for updating water right transfers.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:13:50 Mark Simonich, Montana Association of Realtors

00:15:00 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Senior Water Rights Coalition and the Montana Farmer's Union

00:15:53 Millie Hefner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:17:36 Rep. Brown

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 42

00:19:04 **Motion:** Sen. Barrett moved that **SB 42 DO PASS.**

00:19:39 **Motion:** Sen. Barrett moved that **SB 42 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(nas23a01)

Discussion:

00:19:45 Sen. Barrett

00:20:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Connell and Sen. Richmond voted by proxy.

00:21:16 Sen. Vincent
EXHIBIT(nas23a02)

00:21:43 **Motion:** Sen. Barrett moved that **SB 42 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

00:21:46 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division
EXHIBIT(nas23a03)

00:22:21 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vincent moved that **SB 42 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Connell and Sen. Richmond voted by proxy.

00:22:38 **Motion:** Sen. Barrett moved that **SB 42 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

00:22:51 Sen. Barrett

00:25:57 Chair Vincent

00:26:33 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association

00:26:40 Chair Vincent

00:27:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Connell and Sen. Richmond voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

00:27:47 Chair Vincent

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:30 PM

Pat Christian, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas23aad.pdf](#))